

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANJUL 00493 061127Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /057 W

-----061129Z 082406 /21

O R 061025Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4230

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

UNCLAS BANJUL 0493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT JAWARA ELECTED TO NEW TERM AS PPP WINS LARGE
MAJORITY

1. GAMBIA'S VOTERS RETURNED PPP TO POWER BY HANDSOME MAJORITY
FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS APRIL 4-5. RULING PARTY WON 27
SEATS OUT OF 34 CONTESTED, REDUCING ITS LEAD FROM PREVIOUS
HOUSE BY ONLY ONE SEAT. AFTER 18TH M.P. PRONOUNCED DULY ELECTED ON
EVENING APRIL 5, SIR PHILIP BRIDGES, CHIEF JUSTICE AND PRESIDING
ELECTION OFFICER, ANNOUNCED THAT SIR DAWDA KAIRABA JAWARA HAD
BEEN AGAIN ELECTED PRESIDENT.

2. TWO VETERAN PPP CABINET MINISTERS LOST THEIR SEATS, IBRAHIMA
M. GARBA-JAHUMPA (FINANCE AND TRADE) AND KALILOU SINGHATEH
(LABOR, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL WELFARE). IN ADDITION, TWO
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES, BABA TOURAY (EDUCATION, YOUTH,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANJUL 00493 061127Z

SPORTS AND CULTURE) AND ABDOULIE K. N'JIE (WORKS AND
COMMUNICATIONS) LOST TO NCP CHALLENGERS. THUS, MAJOR CABINET
CHANGES MAY BE EXPECTED SHORTLY.

3. PPP SWEPT ALL SEATS IN URD, MID, AND LRD, WITH SUBSTANTIAL
MAJORITIES IN EACH CONSTITUENCY. ON NORTH BANK, PPP SPLIT
EVENLY WITH NCP FOR 6 SEATS CONTESTED (SEVENTH SEAT WILL

SHORTLY BE DECIDED IN BYELECTION). NCP LEADER SHERIFF DIBBA EASILY WON HIS CENTRAL BADDIBU SEAT, WHILE TWO NCP COLLEAGUES BROUGHT DOWN SINGHATEH (LOWER BADDIBU) AND TOURAY (ILLIASSA). HARD FOUGHT SABACH SANJAL SEAT WAS RETAINED BY PPP IN FOUR-WAY CONTEST BY OVERALL MAJORITY OF ONLY 18 VOTES.

4. WESTERN DIVISION AND BANJUL CITY WITNESSED INTENSE COMPETITION. PPP FOR FIRST TIME EVER WON BANJUL NORTH BY SMALL MAJORITY. OPPOSITION UP EASILY WON BANJUL CENTRAL AND BANJUL SOUTH (LATTER SEAT HAD BEEN HELD BY GARBA-JAHUMPA). TO SURPRISE OF SOME OBSERVERS, PPP WON ALL 4 KOMBO SEATS, ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER A.B. N'JIE RETAINED HIS NORTHERN KOMBO BY ONLY 176 VOTES (OUT OF 3996 CAST). PPP EASILY WON 2 FONIS SEATS, BUT LOST TO NCP 2 OUT OF 3 BANJUL SUBURBS' SEATS IN SERREKUNDA AND BAKAU.

5. NEW PARLIAMENT WILL THEREFORE BREAK-DOWN AS FOLLOWS: PPP-27 MEMBERS; NCP-5 MEMBERS; AND UP-2 MEMBERS. NEW LEADER OF OPPOSITION WILL PRESUMABLY BE SHERIFF DIBBA, AS UP EXPECTED TO FOLLOW HIS DIRECTION (BOTH UP MEMBERS ELECTED HAD PLEDGED THEIR PRESIDENTIAL VOTES TO DIBBA). TINY NLP, ALLIED WITH UP IN 5 UP-RIVER CONSTITUENCIES, POLLED TOTAL ON ONLY 4000 VOTES AND THUS HAD NEGLIGIBLE EFFECT ON ELECTION. ITS LEADER, BANJUL LAWYER PAP CHEYASSIN SECKA, WAS POOR FOURTH IN FOUR-MAN SABACH SANJAL CONSTITUENCY, WHERE HE GARNERED ONLY 226 VOTES.

6. ELECTION PROCEEDED IN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM, WITH NO INCIDENTS REPORTED. EMBASSY OBSERVERS VISITED POLLING PLACES

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANJUL 00493 061127Z

IN AND AROUND BANJUL ON BOTH VOTING DAYS AND WERE IMPRESSED BY HIGH VOTER INTEREST, COMPETENCE OF ELECTORAL OFFICERS, AND EASE WITH WHICH DEMOCRATIC PROCESS CARRIED OUT. TOTAL VOTE CAST GREATLY EXCEEDED THAT OF 1972 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION. WYGANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANJUL00493
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770119-1106
Format: TEL
From: BANJUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770484/aaaacvbi.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 462d54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2887131
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT JAWARA ELECTED TO NEW TERM AS PPP WINS LARGE MAJORITY
TAGS: PINT, GA, PPP, (JAWARA, DAWDA KAIRABA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/462d54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009